

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An automated electronic filing system comprising:

a web server coupled to the Internet ~~a wide area network~~;

a receiving agency server separate from said web server and coupled to said ~~wide area network~~ the Internet such that it is capable of communication with said web server, wherein communication between said receiving agency server and said web server is subject to authentication and is at least partially encrypted;

a client machine separate from said web server and said receiving agency server and coupled to the Internet ~~said wide area network~~ for communication with said web server, wherein communication between said client machine and said web server is subject to authentication and is at least partially encrypted, wherein said web server provides said client machine with a form which can be verified by said web server using heuristics, such that said web server serves as an interface to said receiving agency server, said client machine providing information to said web server forming at least a part of an electronic document to be filed with said receiving agency server by said web server in a manner that said web server serves as an interface to said receiving agency computer for said client machine, said electronic document filed for further processing by a receiving agency associated with said receiving agency server in accordance with a procedure for which said receiving agency is in some manner responsible; and

wherein said web server automatically produces at least a portion of said electronic document in response to a selection originating from said client machine, wherein said form includes at least one of a blank form and a partially filled-in form based upon information stored on said web server, wherein said form can be at least partially automatically filled-in in response to said selection, wherein said web server automatically updates docketing information, and wherein said web server transacts a financial transaction with said receiving agency server on behalf of said client machine.

2-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 1 further comprising an applicant machine coupled to the Internet ~~said wide area network~~.

15. (Currently amended) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 14 wherein said applicant machine communicates with said web server the Internet ~~over said wide area network~~.

16. (Original) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim 15 wherein communications between said applicant machine and said web server are at least partially encrypted.

17. (Currently amended) An automated electronic filing system as recited in claim [[15]] 16 wherein communications between said applicant machine and said web server are subject to authentication.

18-20. (Canceled)

21. (Withdrawn) A method for electronically filing documents over the Internet via an intermediary web server comprising:

prior to the following acts, storing data useful for populating an HTML based form on a web server coupled to the Internet;

providing access to said HTML based form by a client machine which is separate from said web server and which is coupled to the Internet;

at least partially automatically filling in said form on said web server with suitable data selected from said data useful for populating said HTML based form based upon input from said client machine;

verifying on said web server completeness of said form and information of said form based upon stored heuristics; and

submitting by said web server said form to a receiving agency over the Internet.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 21 further comprising:

adding additional information to said form based upon input from said client machine prior to verifying said information.

23. (Withdrawn) A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 22 further comprising obtaining an electronic signature prior to submitting said form to said receiving agency.

24. (Withdrawn) A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 23 further comprising paying a filing fee to said receiving agency in conjunction with the submission of said form to said agency.

25. (Withdrawn) A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 23 wherein said electronic signature is obtained from said client machine.

26. (Withdrawn) A method for electronically filing documents as recited in claim 23 wherein said electronic signature is obtained from said client machine coupled to said TCP/IP network.

27. (Withdrawn) A computer readable media including code segments for electronically filing documents over the Internet via an intermediary web server comprising:

a code segment for storing data useful for populating an HTML based form on a web server coupled to the Internet;

a code segment providing access to said HTML based form by a client machine which is separate from said web server and which is coupled to the Internet;

a code segment at least partially automatically filling in said form on said web server with suitable data selected from said data useful for populating said HTML based form based upon input from said client machine;

a code segment verifying on said web server completeness of said form and information of said form based upon stored heuristics; and

a code segment submitting by said web server said form to a receiving agency over the Internet.

28. (Withdrawn) A computer readable media as recited in claim 27 further comprising:

a code segment adding additional information to said form based upon input from said client machine prior to verifying said information.

29. (Withdrawn) A computer readable media as recited in claim 28 further comprising a code segment obtaining an electronic signature prior to submitting said form to said receiving agency.

30. (Withdrawn) A computer readable media as recited in claim 29 further comprising a code segment paying a filing fee to said receiving agency in conjunction with the submission of said form to said agency.

31. (Previously presented) An automated electronic filing system for use in electronic prosecution of trademark applications comprising:

a web server coupled to a wide area network;

a receiving agency server separate from said web server and coupled to said wide area network such that it is capable of communicating with said web server, said receiving agency server associated with a governmental agency responsible for the administration of trademark registration;

a client machine separate from said web server and said receiving agency server and coupled to said wide area network for communication with said web server, such that said web server serves as an interface to said receiving agency server, said client machine providing information to said web server forming at least a part of an electronic document related to prosecution of a trademark application or maintenance of a trademark registration, said electronic document to be filed with said receiving agency server by said web server in a manner that said web server serves as an interface to said receiving agency computer, said electronic document filed for further processing by said governmental agency in accordance with preestablished rules;

wherein said web server automatically produces at least a portion of said electronic document in response to a selection originating from said client machine, wherein said web server provides said client machine with a form, wherein said form can be at least partially automatically filled-in in response to said selection; and

wherein said web server serves as an interface between said client machine and said receiving agency server, and wherein said web server makes a payment to said government agency for the filing of said electronic document.

32. (Currently amended) An automated electronic filing system comprising:

a web server capable of communicating over the Internet;

a receiving agency server separate from said web server and capable of communicating over the Internet, said receiving agency server associated with a governmental agency;

a client machine separate from said web server and said receiving agency server and capable of communicating over the Internet, such that said web server serves as an interface to said receiving agency server, said client machine providing information to said web server forming at least a part of an electronic document, said electronic document to be filed with said receiving agency server by said web server for further processing by said governmental agency in accordance with pre-established rules, wherein said web server serves as an interface between said client machine and said receiving agency server, whereby said receiving agency server communicates with said web server as if said receiving agency server were communicating directly with said client machine; and

wherein said web server makes a payment to said governmental agency on behalf of a client for the filing of said electronic document.

33-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) A communications system comprising:

a client computer coupled to the Internet;

~~one or more~~ an applicant computer[[s]] coupled to the Internet and communicating
~~associated~~ with said client computer;

an intermediary server coupled to the Internet communicating with ~~at least one of~~
said client computer, said client computer serving as an intermediary between said applicant
computer and said intermediary computer ~~and said one or more applicant computers;~~ and

a recipient server coupled to the Internet and communicating with said intermediary server, said intermediary server serving as an interface between said client computer and said recipient server, whereby said recipient server communicates with said intermediary server as if said recipient server were communicating directly with said applicant computer.
~~over the Internet.~~